



Dennis Braddock, Secretary

## CURRENT BUDGET

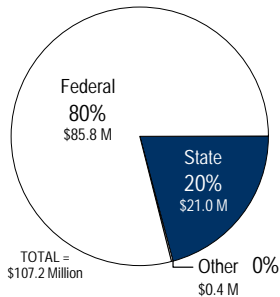
2003-05 Biennium Funding

# Vocational Rehabilitation

October 1, 2003

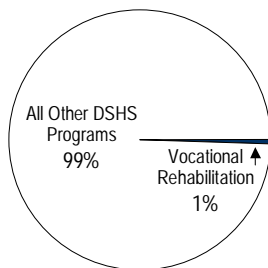
## Funding Sources

2003-05 Biennium



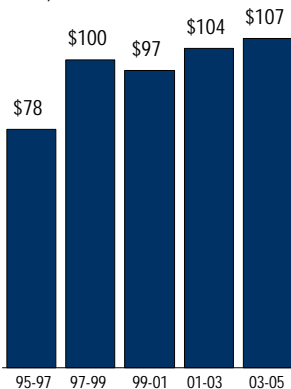
## The Vocational Rehabilitation Budget

As a Percent of the DSHS Budget  
All Funds



## Funding Trend

Total Dollars to Vocational Rehabilitation  
(In Millions)



## CONTACTS

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**360.902.8255** and request a hard copy.

**THE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (DVR)** provides vocational assistance and employment support services to individuals with disabilities who want to work, but have substantial impediments to employment. The division also assists individuals with independent living and transitioning from school to work. DVR is an active participant in state and local community activities that help disabled persons enter the workforce. Technical assistance and staff education for private business and industry is also supplied by DVR.

The division's priorities over the next six years are to increase the expertise of DVR employees, to expand its technological capacity to serve a culturally diverse population, improve the quality of services provided to customers, and to build partnerships within the Workforce Investment system.

## 2003-05 BIENNIUM FUNDING

Authorized spending for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in 2003-05 is **\$107.2 million** (\$21.0 million GF-S), which supports 345 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs). Program priorities are identified below:

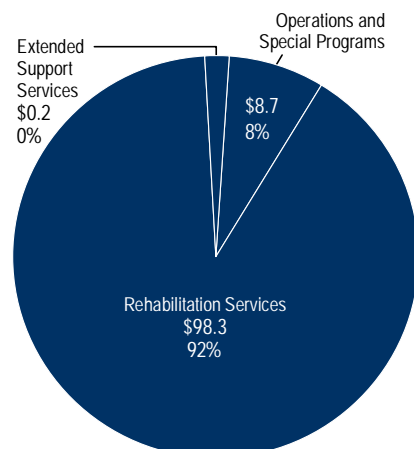
## REHABILITATION SERVICES

Client rehabilitation services account for 91 percent of the division's dollars. These dollars purchase services and goods on behalf of eligible clients to meet employment goals. After determining eligibility the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) provides on-going counseling and guidance, primarily designing the Individual Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE is tailored to achieve specific employment outcomes that are selected by the clients, consistent with the clients' unique strengths, abilities, interests and informed choice. Post employment services are included as needed. The division placed approximately 1,365 individuals in productive and gainful employment in Fiscal Year 2002. *\$98.3 million (\$ 19.0 million GF-S, \$78.9 million GF-F, \$0.4 million Other)*

## 2003-05 Biennial Base Funding

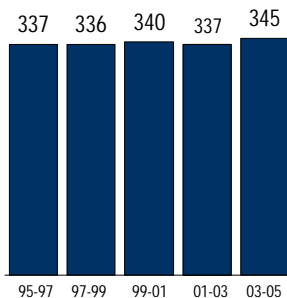
Initial Allotment

Total = \$107.2 Million



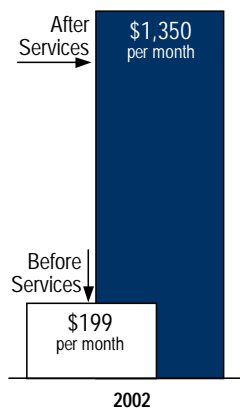
### Budgeted FTEs

Vocational Rehabilitation Total



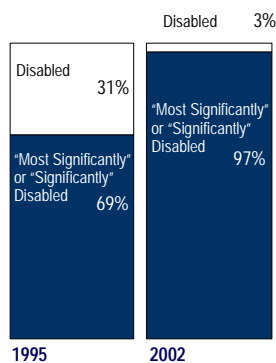
### Average Monthly Wages

Before and After Receiving Vocational Rehabilitation Services



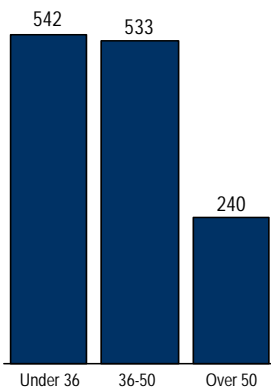
### Population Characteristics

More significantly disabled than 1995



### Ages of Customers

Successfully Rehabilitated in FY 2002



### OPERATIONS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Operations include administrative functions and business functions for the division, information systems, the State Rehabilitation Council and State Independent Living Council, and program planning and evaluation. Special programs include the In-Service Training grant, which allows for comprehensive personnel development and the Independent Living grant, which provides a full range of services for individuals with severe disabilities preparing them to function independently in family and community settings or to secure and maintain appropriate employment. *\$8.7 million (\$1.9million GF-S, \$6.8 million GF-F)*

### FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

#### ORDER OF SELECTION

The division initiated an Order of Selection in November 2000. Under Order of Selection, federal law mandates services must be given based on level of disability, with the most significantly disabled served first. In FY 2002 until June 2003 all individuals in priority category one, the most significantly disabled, were taken off the wait list and put into employment plans. Individuals in priority category two, significantly disabled, were taken off the wait list as resources became available and put into employment plans. Since entering Order of Selection the division has been unable to serve priority three individuals. The department must now take the painful step of closing all wait lists temporarily, until it becomes clear sufficient resources are available to complete employment plans already in production before committing to new employment plans.

#### PARTNERING WITH THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM

The Workforce Investment Act passed by Congress has made it essential for DVR to collaborate with all the partners in the Workforce system. This partnership has the potential of serving many people with disabilities. Order of Selection has narrowed DVR's client base to the most significantly disabled, and working within the Workforce Investment system will ensure that those individuals with less severe disabilities can be served.

#### IMPLEMENT TICKET TO WORK

Ticket to Work is scheduled to begin in November 2003. The state is prepared to fully realize the possible opportunities that Ticket to Work will bring. The division is focused on taking a leadership position in this process by developing a strategy for Employment Networks. The networks will increase the opportunities for individuals with disabilities to find employment, generate new revenue and create new customer services at DVR.

#### HIGH SCHOOL TO WORK TRANSITIONS

Research indicates that the earlier youths with disabilities become connected with the vocational rehabilitation process, the more likely they are to succeed in their chosen careers. To support this success, the division must enhance its relationships within each school district to reach these students well in advance of their graduation. Building relationships with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction will help to reinforce the division's efforts.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

The Rehabilitation Act is up for reauthorization in 2003. Decisions made during the reauthorization process will significantly impact the division, including whether the Rehabilitation Services Administration will remain within the federal Department of Education. The level of funding that will be provided is also an important issue. DVR will remain active during this time.